

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - September 11, 2007

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Luisa Gonzalez-Pizarro pled guilty yesterday in federal court in San Diego before United States District Judge Barry Ted Moskowitz to charges of money laundering and filing a false tax return. Following her two guilty pleas, Gonzalez-Pizarro was sentenced by Judge Moskowitz to 21 months' custody in federal prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. Ricardo Gonzalez-Camacena, the husband of Gonzalez-Pizarro, previously entered guilty pleas on August 30, 2007 to conspiracy to transport illegal aliens and to filing a false tax return. He is scheduled for sentencing before Judge Moskowitz on November 29, 2007.

Gonzalez-Pizarro entered her pleas based on her participation in an alien smuggling group led by her husband and operating out of North County. According to court records, Gonzalez-Pizarro admitted that she used \$27,600 from alien smuggling proceeds to make a down payment on a home her husband purchased in Oceanside. Gonzalez-Pizarro also agreed she and her husband made money by arranging for the transportation of at least 89 recently smuggled illegal aliens to their ultimate destinations in Southern

California. Additionally, she acknowledged that she filed false income tax returns whereby she and her husband purposely filed false returns that cumulatively resulted in a \$75,000 loss to the Internal Revenue Service.

In her plea agreement, Gonzalez-Pizarro agreed to forfeit the Oceanside home along with an additional \$350,000 in cash that Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents seized from multiple bank accounts, as well as two residences used by Gonzalez-Pizarro. Upon imposing his sentence on Gonzalez-Pizarro, Judge Moskowitz noted that in his 21 years as a judge, he had never seen such a large amount of cash, altogether over \$400,000, seized by government agencies in an alien smuggling case. Judge Moskowitz stated that this “staggering” and “extraordinary” amount of cash made this case one of the bigger alien smuggling cases he had ever seen.

United States Attorney Hewitt said, “The amount of money seized in this case serves as a reminder of both the lucrative character of alien smuggling enterprises and the government’s commitment to prosecute those who profit from such criminal conduct.”

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 06cr1035BTM

Luisa Gonzalez-Pizarro

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1957 and 2 (Money Laundering)
Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1) (Filing a False Tax Return)
Title 18 United States Code, Section 982(a)(1) (Criminal Forfeiture)

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES

United States Border Patrol
Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation